(c) the action taken to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the provisional figures of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI and S), Kolkata, India's exports of apparels (readymade garments) was Rs.26484 crore during the 1st half of the calendar year 2009 recording an increase of 21% over the exports during the corresponding period of the previous year. However, in dollar term the export of apparels during this period was US$ 5374 million which denoted an increase of 0.02% over the corresponding period of 2008.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is pursuing a multi-pronged action to increase exports, including introduction of stimulus package consisting of taxes, duties and interest rebates, enhanced incentives under various schemes of the Foreign Trade Policy (2009-14) to various lines of textiles and clothing (T and C) products and mounting of mega shows abroad to enhance exposure to the diverse range and capacities of India's T and C industry.

Formulating proactive cotton policy

1519. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate a proactive cotton policy and level playing field to textile industry in order to compete with other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes sir.

(b) The Government of India has constituted a Working Group to formulate a National Fiber Policy. The Ministry of Textiles is the nodal Ministry and secretary (Textiles) is the Chairperson of the said Working Group. The Terms of Reference, *inter-alia,* laid down the emphasis on self sufficiency in the fiber not only to meet its own demand for internal consumption, but also for exports of fiber as also of the value added finished products. It also lays down the issue of promoting all fibers (which also include cotton fiber).

(c) Question does not arise in view of above.

Proposal to increase handloom clusters in Tamil Nadu

1520. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handloom clusters have been developed in Tamil Nadu under the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof, districtwise;

(c) the total number of weaver beneficiaries covered by these clusters in the State;

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the clusters in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2007-08 & 2008-09, 37 handioom clusters have been sanctioned to the State of Tamil Nadu under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme. District-wise details are as under:-

S. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Cluster
1.	Thiruvallur	Padirivedu
2.	Kancheepuram	Pillyarpalayam
3.	Vellore	Sholinghur, Gudiyatham, Thirumalpur
4.	Cuddalore	Pudupettai, Naduveerapattu
5.	Villupuram	Kandachipuram, Esalam
6.	Thanjavur	Thirubuvanam, Ayyampattai
7.	Prembalur	Jayamkondam
8.	Karur	Vengamedu
9.	Nammakal	Edapadi, Paramatthi Vellore
10.	Salem	Attayampatti, Dodagapattai
11.	Erode	Appakudal, Thandampalaym, Dasappa Gounden Pudur, Chennimalai, Doddampalayam
12.	Coimbatore	Sirumugai, Thiruppur, Pollachi
13.	Madurai	Nilayur, Vandiyur, Sellur
14.	Dindigal	Palani, Chinnalapatti
15.	Ramnathapuram	Emaneswaram, Paramakudi
16.	Virudhunagar	Punalveli, Srivilliputhur
17.	Tirunelveli	Veeravanallur, Sawyarpuram
18.	Kanyakumari	Palliyadi

(c) 16,458 beneficiaries weavers are covered by these clusters.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has fixed an indicative target of 09 Clusters for 2009-10 for the State of Tamil Nadu.